

**Subject:** Your September Neighborhoods First Newsletter

**From:** Mike Bonin's Neighborhoods First Newsletter <updates@11thdistrict.com>

**Date:** 10/02/2017 07:42 AM

**To:** lisa@mediadistrict.org

## Council District 11

*As we learn more about [another tragic mass shooting](#) - this time in Las Vegas - our hearts, thoughts and prayers are with the victims, their families and those who are enduring unimaginable grief after this horrific tragedy.*

## September 2017

Welcome to the latest edition of Mike Bonin's Neighborhoods First Newsletter. Whether you're celebrating a new year (L'Shana Tovah!) or settling back into another school year, there's a lot to look forward to in the coming months. And a lot to review from the past few weeks here in CD11.

[Use this link](#) to read this issue on our website or share it with your friends on social media.

**IN THIS ISSUE:** Mike continues to win additional Los Angeles Fire Department resources for the district, proposes more round-the-clock public restrooms to curb the spread of Hepatitis A, and fights to save a beloved newsstand. We look at improved safety along Venice Boulevard, look at proposed new rules for marijuana dispensaries and affordable housing, celebrate Oaxacan culture, organize for earthquake victims, and preview proposed park improvements...but first, please take a look at our Neighborhoods First profile of Karen Dial, a longtime civic and business leader in Westchester. Her family's company, Drollinger Properties, has been serving the community as a property manager and major philanthropist since 1947.

You can find out more [about Mike](#), [meet your CD11 staff](#) and [see the latest videos](#) and updates from the Westside on our website at [www.11thdistrict.com](http://www.11thdistrict.com). And remember to [like Mike's Facebook page](#) to see the latest news about your neighborhood.

---

 **Neighborhoods\_First\_Profile\_NEW.jpg**

## **Westchester Leader Karen Dial Has Deep Roots, Big Heart**

*Karen Dial's family-owned business, Drollinger Properties, is a Westchester landmark. For seventy years, they have been investing time, resources and passion into the community. This month, we spoke to Drollinger President Karen Dial about her family's legacy, what she loves most about her neighborhood and what's next for Westchester.*

**Tell us about Drollinger Properties' history in Westchester?**

 **Oct2017Graphics.jpg**

In 1943, my grandma Ella Drollinger met with a developer named Frank H. Ayres. He showed her a bunch of property here on Sepulveda Blvd. At that time our neighbor was not LAX but Mines Field, which was just a dirt landing strip. He said, "Mrs. Drollinger, I think this is going to be one of the world's biggest airports." So she invested in the location of the former Jim Dandy

Supermarket, where Bed Bath and Beyond is today. We've been investing in Westchester ever since. She was a really special person. When her dad graduated USC in 1947, he wanted to get into the real estate business and founded the HP Drollinger Company. We have remained a family business. It warms my heart and makes me happy to be part of the Westchester legacy I'm helping out the community that helped raise me.

### **What makes Westchester such a special neighborhood?**

It's the community support. We have families who've been here for decades, some families who were raised here, some kids go away to college and then say "Gee, I love Westchester and I want to move back." So they buy a home and raise a family and perpetuate the legacy. We shop locally whenever possible, we support our local businesses, we participate in community events. Some of our nonprofits that are very big here in Westchester: the Chamber, the YMCA, the Airport Marina Counseling Service, LMU, Otis. The combination of events and community spirit that those nonprofits bring makes it simple for people in the area to attend different fun, spirited things like the 4th of July parade, which feels like a small town parade that happens to be in the middle of the LA metropolis. We're in the middle of this humongous city, but we are a proud community and we stick with each other.

Some people don't even know where Westchester is, but they love it when they find it. It's really a special place.

### **What trends should people be following in the Westchester real estate market?**

People are finding that Westchester fills a lot of what families are looking for. Because we have that feel, it's becoming more and more popular. What we need to start doing is improving our local schools so that realtors and families will know they can stay here as their kids grow up. We have Catholic school options and a Lutheran school. The community needs to come together to bring our schools to a level where we can say proudly, "Here's where my kids go to school!"

People love our proximity to the ocean. It's enticing to families to say I just drive two miles and I can spend a picnic day at the beach with my kids and watch the sunset. We have softball, baseball, soccer, lots of parks for kids. We're close to Marina del Rey and Playa Vista. Some homes have a beautiful view. It's that conviviality. Everybody knows their neighbor.

We're making it better all the time, through the work and partnership of Drollinger Properties, the BID, the Revitalization Committee, two farmers market

and restaurants that give back to the community.


We're on the cusp of big things here in Westchester. I'm so excited because Drollinger Properties is opening a new independent bookstore and restaurant in the Westchester Triangle next to Ayara. It's a 5,000 SF. When I was a kid, that was our toy and hobby store. I was raised in the 50s, when everything was wooden and handmade. I bought my first Barbie there with my babysitting money! That building is empty now, we're renovating it when we get permits and expect to start construction in January. My hope is that other building owners put a fresh coat of paint on their businesses, so we can improve the entire area. Bookstore will have events, author book signings, poetry readings, small dance group space, local artists, LMU and Otis students selling their wares. It's going to be a real community gathering. And we're also planning to open a restaurant that will be really fantastic, with an urban rooftop deck. We look forward to bringing the community! We are trying to form organization dedicated to public art in Westchester to bring synergies for other people who come visit to look at public art. Over by the new bookstore, I'm hoping to bring in some cool art through the BID and the Chamber, as well as streetscape improvements or public art.

Westchester is all about pride, respect and kindness—that's who we are. I'm putting up signs on businesses that say, "You are entering sacred space. Please be kind and respectful." Hopefully people take note of that and take it to heart.

### **Can you tell us about your commitment to philanthropy?**

Before my dad passed, he started a family foundation that he funded. He was so frugal with the way he led his life, we are able to reap the benefits as the recipients of this amazing family foundation. We as a collective board get to make the decisions on who receives these amazing funds. Because Westchester is so near and dear to our hearts, we like to keep our money right here instead of give it to different states where we don't know where the money goes. It's extremely important to us to have a relationship and personal connection to the nonprofits we support. It is a joy for us to be able to help folks that are less fortunate. We also contribute to LMU and Otis, our two premier universities here in Westchester.

---

 Neighborhood\_News\_REVISE.jpg

## **Winning Emergency Response Resources for Westchester, Playa del Rey and Ladera**

 Oct2017Graphics2.jpg

We had a big win this month for Westchester, Playa del Rey and Ladera: new emergency response resources are coming to your neighbors. The Los Angeles Fire Department added an additional ambulance staffed with two firefighter/EMTs at Fire Station 5 in Westchester. Additionally, the LAFD is creating a special emergency medical response unit at Los Angeles International Airport. The new resources are a result of Mike's work on the City Council's Budget & Finance Committee and part of his agenda to enhance public safety for Westside neighborhoods.

Public safety is number one, and Mike is thrilled to have been able to work successfully to secure these additional resources for our neighborhoods. When someone calls 911, LAFD needs to have the resources to respond--these new units help that mission immensely. [Learn more](#) here about how these resources will benefit Ladera, Playa del Rey and Westchester.

These new resources are the latest in a series of public safety resources Mike was secured for the 11th District. You read more about the rest of them [here](#).

---

### **Saving a Treasured Newsstand in Brentwood**

Oct2017Graphics5.jpg

At the urging of neighbors, Mike is calling for the beloved Brentwood Newsstand - threatened with closure by Whole Foods - to be designated as a cultural and historic landmark. For 28 years, this newsstand has served the neighborhood. The newsstand had been slated to close at the end of this month, which would be a big loss for Brentwood and the Westside.

Mike voiced his support for saving the newsstand to the Department of City Planning's Office of Historic Resources, which makes a staff report to the Cultural Heritage Commission on whether to designate a local site as historic. If the commission approves it, the recommendation is referred to the City Council for official designation.

---

### **Palisades' Veterans Gardens Moves Closer to Reality**

 Oct2017Graphics3.jpg

Last year, the American Legion Post 283 made a generous challenge to the community: raise \$200,000 to revamp [Palisades Recreation Center](#) and the post will donate \$400,000 to bring the new park to life. Once completed, the park will include bocce ball courts, picnic tables, walkways and landscaping. An iconic flagpole will welcome visitors to the park's gardens and honor American Legion Post 283. Additional monuments will commemorate the United States military service branches: Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marines and Navy. If the funds are raised and the plans receive Department of Recreation and Parks approval (the Pacific Palisades Park Advisory Board gave a strong favorable

recommendation), construction of the new Veterans Gardens is expected to be finished in Spring 2018.

---

### **Return of Roosterfish**

 Oct2017Graphics15.jpg

Before closing its doors last year, the Roosterfish bar in Venice provided a safe and fun spot for the LGBT community for 40 years -- and its closure was a gut punch to many. But the beloved bar was given a new lease on life thanks to new owners Mario Vollera and Patrick Brunet, who partnered with the Grant Turck, Founder and President of [Venice Pride](#). The bar's name and some of its favorite artistic touches will be preserved, as other parts of the space get a mini-makeover to create more space and light. The new and improved spot will be ready for its debut early next year, but the new ownership team got the party started early with Roosterfish Revived, a fundraiser last weekend that raised more than \$15,000 for Venice Pride.

Welcome back, Roosterfish!

---

### **Cleaning up Playa del Rey's Jungle (40th Anniversary!)**

**Oct2017Graphics16.jpg**

Neighbors of Playa del Rey's Jungle neighborhood held their annual Jungle Cleanup this month -- and, as usual, it was a great success. Scores of residents turned up to clean the streets, dispose of old household items and visit with neighbors. Thank you to Julie Ross, Carol Kapp, Lucy Han, Sally Hughes and Jungle Clean-up co-founder Jeannie Moody for their leadership!

---

### **Japanese-American Community Commemorates 9/11 with Call for Solidarity Against Discrimination**

Oct2017Graphics17.jpg

The Venice-West LA Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) commemorated 9/11 at the Venice Japanese American Memorial Monument by standing in solidarity against racial prejudice. Organizers presented 1,000 peace cranes to Mohammed Abdul Aleem of King Fahad Mosque in Culver City. VJAMM was created to memorialize the stain of Japanese American internment -- a legacy of institutionalized discrimination and injustice that marred America's history during World War II. Organizers are determined to make sure the monument is a reminder to never let history's dark chapters be repeated.

---

### **Freshening Up Del Rey Streets**

Oct2017Graphics18.jpg

Our street improvement efforts continued this month, with restriping on Braddock Drive in Del Rey between Inglewood Avenue and Culver Boulevard. Mike has made improving the quality of CD11 roadways a top priority. Neighborhoods are seeing new results every week: safer intersections, fewer potholes and new stop signs. Thanks to LADOT for the restriping and resurfacing progress through the district!

---

### **Following Robbery Response, West LA Division Leads City in Violent Crime Reduction**

 Oct2017Graphics6.jpg



Mike's office has been working closely with LAPD's West LA Division and Brentwood neighborhood leaders to address several robberies and thefts over the summer. Our hard work has paid off: as of September 2, West LA Division leads the city in the reduction of violent crime, is number three in the reduction of property crime, and is second in the overall reduction in Part I crime for the entire city. Even with those positive statistics, there is still a lot of work to be done. Mike is working with LAPD to ensure you and your neighbors are safe.

As part of his goal to prioritize public safety, Mike developed a long-range "Back to Basic Car" plan. [You can read the full 10-point plan here.](#)

We are also working with the South Brentwood Residents Association Neighborhood Watch to discuss future crime prevention efforts. Thank you to LAPD for your help in addressing this summer's incidents and for helping to keep Brentwood safe--and make it safer!

---

### **Oaxacan Community Celebrates 10th Festival of Tejate in West LA & Coordinate Relief Efforts for Earthquake Victims**

 Oct2017Graphics7.jpg

Congrats to Natividad Santiago, Gabriel Gomez and Grupo Folklorico Guish-Bac on the 10th Annual Festival of Tejate USA at Stoner Park. Mike was proud to co-sponsor this annual celebration of Oaxacan culture. This year's event took on a somber yet determined mood, with participants remembering the 8.1 magnitude earthquake that struck near Oaxaca and Chiapas earlier this month, killing nearly 100 people and causing devastating damage throughout

the region. Rather than be demoralized, the festival's organizers turned the event into an opportunity to mobilize relief efforts. Natividad Santiago of Grupo Folklórico Guish-bac said Oaxacans in LA wanted to do something here to help victims, so they coordinated an event at West LA Civic Center which Mike was proud to co-sponsor. Thank you to the local Oaxacan community which came together on short notice in two weeks to make the event happen.

---

### **Westchester and Playa del Rey Parents Rally to Protect Kids from Hate**

 Oct2017Graphics22.jpg

When local parents learned the Westboro Baptist Church planned to demonstrate outside of Westchester High School to spread their messages of hate, parents quickly organized to make sure the students coming to school heard loud and clear that Westchester/Playa stands for diversity, unity, and love. Thank you to Jenny Hontz, Christy Skura and all the other Moms from WISH, BMI, WESM, Ocean, New Middle School Pathway, CWC, and to the heads of WISH, CHIME, WESM, NMSP and Ocean who made time on a school morning to be there to make sure our kids know that hate has no place in our neighborhoods.

---

### **Westside Senior Health & Wellness Fair a Hit in West LA**

 Oct2017Graphics8.jpg

The District 11 Westside Senior Health & Wellness Fair was a huge success. Hundreds of seniors joined us at the West LA Civic Center to learn more about the health and lifestyle resources available on the Westside. Thanks to the 25 nonprofit exhibitors and government agencies who made the event a big success. Special kudos to City Health Commissioner Ron Kato for his work organizing, and to the [West LA/Sawtelle Neighborhood Council](#), the [Del Rey Neighborhood Council](#) and the [Mar Vista Community Council](#) for their sponsorship of this great event. The 11th District is a place where Angelenos of all ages are valued and invited to thrive.

---

### **Abbot Kinney Festival Going Strong in its 33rd Year**

**Oct2017Graphics13.jpg**

Three decades in, the Abbot Kinney Festival is more popular than ever. More than 100,000 people packed the street to visit local shops and restaurants, hundreds of vendors, kids games, food trucks and beer gardens. In addition to having fun, the Festival is also a time to say thanks to local heroes whose passion helps make Venice so special. Congratulations to the 2017 Spirit of Venice awardees: Marianne Brown, Elisa James, Regina Weller and the late Steve Weller.

And did you know that by visiting the festival you're also supporting the Abbot Kinney Festival Association, a nonprofit that has given hundreds of thousands of dollars to local causes from elementary schools to public art organizations? This year's list of grantees is [here](#). Thanks to everyone who came out to meet up, eat

up and celebrate Venice, while supporting our community in the process!

---

### **Potrero Canyon Park Beautification Underway in Pacific Palisades**

 Oct2017Graphics4.jpg

The long-awaited Potrero Canyon Park is one step closer to reality, with construction slated to start in Fall 2018. Once completed, Potrero Canyon Park will offer Palisadians dozens of acres of peaceful and welcoming open space to enjoy, will improve the environment, and will be a tremendous and long-deserved quality of life improvement for the neighborhood. Thanks to 122,000 cubic yards of dirt from the [Palisades Village](#) project, we are moving ahead with the construction of Potrero on schedule, and have recently received a permit from CalTrans that will allow us to continue our progress and complete the project on time in 2020.

---

### **Celebrating West LA United Methodist Church's Asian Cultural Bazaar**

 Oct2017Graphics9.jpg

Congrats to [West Los Angeles United Methodist Church](#) on another successful Asian Cultural Bazaar. For over 85 years, WLAUMC has helped build Sawtelle Japantown and continues to support the community through its many ministries. The neighborhood's Asian American heritage is a vibrant part of our district's fabric, with generations of families and small businesses continuing to honor their cultural history. Thank you, WLAUMC, for getting things done for the West LA/Sawtelle neighborhood.

---

### **Safer Streets Thanks to Great Streets in Mar Vista**

**Oct2017Graphics10.jpg**

The Great Streets pilot project in downtown Mar Vista is continuing to show positive results!

According to the Los Angeles Police Department, collisions are down on Venice Boulevard since the City eliminated a traffic lane in either direction between Beethoven Avenue and Inglewood Boulevard earlier this year. The monthly average of vehicle collisions dropped from 5.5 to 4.3, and injuries dropped from 3 to 2.7.

This comes on the heels of traffic data over the summer that showed that average commute times had not been significantly impacted by the change. (Traffic flow data after 30 days of implementation showed the largest average increase was for eastbound traffic between 3pm and 6pm, and it was 37 seconds. At no time during the day did the average commute between

Beethoven and Inglewood take more than 4 minutes). And preliminary results of LADOT's monitoring of project benefits and impacts after 90-days, which will be released over the first and second week of October, shows traffic and travel times continuing to revert back to normal, with a noticeable reduction in speeding along Venice Blvd.

Even so, the City continues to move forward on changes it has promised to the Mar Vista community, including adding green paint to the bike lanes at key areas to improve visibility. Last week, LADOT successfully tested a newly developed green paint that will allow for quick installation at minimal disruption to Venice Boulevard, and DOT is now preparing a schedule for full installation. LADOT also last week completed community outreach on improving right turns, including installing right turn pockets that will provide more room for cars to turn and better visibility crossing the bike lane, and is also scheduling its installation.

We continue to speak to thousands of Mar Vista residents each week. Since implementation of the projects, Councilman Bonin's office has called or texted more than 7,500 households in Mar Vista to ask for their thoughts on the street improvements on Venice Boulevard. Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to share their thoughts, suggestions and thanks.

---

### **Exploring Mar Vista through Street Art and Poetry**

#### **Oct2017Graphics11.jpg**

Culture lovers from across LA showed up to check out Mar Vista's art scene. The Mar Vista Art Walk, which counted Mike among its many co-hosts for its third year, celebrated the increasingly popular neighborhood. This has been a banner year for Mar Vista: a number of new businesses have opened up (looking at you, [Small Batch](#), [Alana's Coffee Roasters](#), [The Mar Vista](#) and its sister business the [Grab & Go!](#)), the [Mar Vista Farmer's Market](#) is one of Los Angeles' most popular, and the Great Streets improvements have made it safer to walk or bike to Venice Boulevard events like the art walk. If you missed the party, [here's a glimpse of the fun!](#)

---

### **Venice Rainbow Lifeguard Tower Becomes a Permanent Tribute to Bill Rosendahl**

### **Oct2017Graphics14.jpg**

In the year since his passing, not a day goes by that we don't remember our dear friend and Mike's mentor and predecessor Bill Rosendahl. Now, thanks to the leadership of Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, millions of visitors each year will learn about him through a rainbow lifeguard tower and plaque that have become permanent fixtures on the Boardwalk and beach. The rainbow tower became an Instagram sensation overnight, with local beachgoers and tourists pausing for photos--and finding out about Bill in the process. Like Bill, the colorful lifeguard tower is an awesome celebration of inclusivity and LGBT pride.

We miss you, Bill, and we're keeping your legacy alive for generations to come.

---

### **Community Task Force Continues Work to Improve Street Safety in Playa del Rey**

 PdR\_Street\_Safety.jpg

We're working hard towards reaching consensus on Safer Streets for PDR.

The Community Task Force made up of local residents, advocates on all sides of the issue, and businesses continues to make strong headway in identifying both safety and traffic related concerns with the projects, and exploring potential improvements. At it's fourth meeting, which will be held this week, it is expected to review a number of options for providing relief to PDR businesses that may be impacted by certain project elements, such as traffic on Culver Boulevard. The task force also agreed at a recent meeting to audio record all meetings and all of its deliberations for the possible release of a full record to the public at the conclusion of the process.

This month we also added a second representative of the Neighborhood Council of Westchester/Playa to the Community Task Force, ensuring strong representation from the NC. Gregg Aniolek, who serves with NCWP Board Member and Community Task Force member Michelle Cooley-Strickland on the Neighborhood Council's Ad Hoc Committee on Road Diets, replaced Kevin White who stepped down from the task force for personal reasons.

---

### **Ballona Creek Bacteria Treatment Technology Study Comments Welcome**

 **Oct2017Graphics19.jpg**

Have thoughts on how authorities should improve Ballona Creek's water quality? The Ballona Creek Bacteria (Total Maximum Daily Load) TMDL Project is being proposed to meet water quality objectives established by the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board that address elevated bacteria levels and the water quality impairments of Ballona Creek and Estuary during dry weather. The project proposes utilizing treatment and low-flow diversion technology at three existing locations along Ballona Creek, Sepulveda Channel and Centinela Creek where water treatment or water quality facilities are already in place. This project will achieve compliance with water quality mandates and improve public health and the beneficial uses of Ballona Creek and Estuary, while providing a new source of water to offset potable water use. LA Sanitation is soliciting comments on the [Draft EIR](#). You can send in your comments on what you think they should study during their environmental review by emailing [lastormwater@lacity.org](mailto:lastormwater@lacity.org) before 5:00 p.m. on October 2.

---



## **Playa del Rey's Del Rey Deli Named Westside's Best Sandwiches**

 Del\_Rey\_Deli.jpg

We already knew that Playa del Rey is a great place to live, but did you also know it's a foodie destination? [LA Weekly has declared](#) that a "sandwich revolution" is going on in Playa del Rey, thanks to the [Del Rey Deli Co.](#) The magazine took a mouth-watering look at the deli's menu, which features unforgettable sandwiches, plus salads, coffee and treats. The restaurant, which opened in 2013, is a labor of love of owners Tim Edwards and Corrina Murdy and Chef Vince Howard.

---

## **Hands-on Cleanup on Culver Boulevard**


 Del\_Rey\_Cleanup\_new.jpg

Our staff got their hands dirty this week, picking up trash in Playa Vista on Culver Drive between Inglewood and Mesmer. Kudos to CD11's Debbie Dyner

Harris and Chuy Orozco for always going above and beyond to keep our neighborhoods clean!

---


### **Chuck Taylor Labor Day Picnic Fun and Safe Thanks to City Partners**

 Chuck\_Taylor\_Picnic\_new.jpg

Of the many Labor Day celebrations in the 11th District, one of this year's highlights was Chuck Taylor's annual picnic in Westchester Park. Now in its 20th year, the event brought families, games and food together for a worthy cause - [Taylor Youth Development](#). After some complaints about trash last year, Mike insisted that city agencies do a better job assisting the event organizers in rapid cleanup. We are happy to report, thanks to the departments of Sanitation and Recreation & Parks, everything was cleaned up promptly, leaving the park ready for the next day's visitors.

---

### **Law Enforcement Heroes Honored at Protectors' Luncheon**

 LAX\_Chamber\_new.jpg

More than 50 local law enforcement leaders were honored last week at the [LAX Coastal Chamber of Commerce](#)'s annual Protectors' Luncheon, including some familiar local faces such as Westchester, Ladera, and Playa del Rey Senior Lead Officers Sophia Castaneda and Luis Pinell. Now in its 22nd year, this event allows the community to give a standing ovation to the brave men and women who keep us safe everyday. This year's keynote remarks were given by new Los Angeles Rams' Executive Vice President and COO Kevin Demoff. It's great to see the Rams getting involved with the community so quickly! Thanks also to the chamber for putting on such a wonderful event.

---

### **Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project Draft EIR Released**

 Ballona\_EIR.jpg

The Ballona Wetlands were once a 2,000-acre expanse of marshes, mud flats,

salt pans and sand dunes that stretched from Playa del Rey to Venice and inland to the Baldwin Hills. Today, BWER is 600 acres of open space that remains of the former wetlands and is managed by the [California Department of Fish and Wildlife](#), which last month released the [Draft Environmental Impact Report \(DEIR\)](#) for an effort to restore and protect the Wetlands. There are a variety of very different approaches to restoration, and the methods and results of a restoration project are likely to be an intensely-debated topic in the months to come. A 60-day public comment period for the restoration project is currently scheduled to end on Nov. 24, 2017, but Mike is asking for there to be more time for the community to examine the DEIR and weigh-in on the future of this priceless part of the Westside.

---

### **Rocking Out at Westchester Arts & Music Festival**

 [WAM\\_new.jpg](#)

Mike was proud to co-sponsor another successful [Westchester Arts & Music \(WAM\) Block Party](#)! Thanks to all the artists and community that joined in making WAM's second year even more phenomenal than the last. Check out a video and photos from the event [here](#).

Thank you to WAM Founder John Sharp and the entire WAM committee - Michael Calzada, Greg Dina-Pham, Travis Dina-Pham, Julie Henriksen, Lisa McKendall, Lisa Neil, Elliott Stern, Dorothy Stone, Eli Wagner, Russ Watson and Tracie West- for yet another great neighborhood party. Can't wait till next year!

---

## **West LA Community Coalition Hosts Successful Community Cleanup**

 WLA\_Cleanup\_new.jpg

Once a month, the [West LA Community Coalition](#) brings neighbors together to keep the neighborhood clean and looking great. The group hosted another successful community clean up on September 30, collecting debris that had been left in the neighborhood! Thank you to all the volunteers and groups (including [Grupo Folklorico Guish-bac](#) and [New West Charter](#)) for helping out, and thank you to [Steve Little - State Farm Insurance](#), [West Los Angeles-Sawtelle Neighborhood Council](#), [Big Sunday](#), and [Supervisor Sheila Kuehl](#) - who all joined Mike's office in supporting the monthly cleanup!

If you weren't able to make it out to the cleanup on September 30, the next one will be hosted on, October 21.


---

## **Ballona Creek Bike Path Gets Upgrade**

 Ballona\_Bike\_path\_new.jpg

Crews from the Los Angeles Department of Transportation made important maintenance improvements along the Ballona Creek bike path in September, filling potholes and fixing cracks to make the path smoother for cyclists and pedestrians. The bike path is an important east-west route that connects Playa del Rey, Del Rey and Culver City, and the maintenance work was very much appreciated by the neighbors and commuters who use the route.

---

 Combating\_Homelessness\_REVISE\_NEW.jpg

### **Expanding Restroom Access to Prevent Hepatitis A**

**Oct2017Graphics25.jpg**

Mike is calling for the City of Los Angeles to dramatically expand access to round-the-clock public restrooms in an effort to curb and combat an outbreak of Hepatitis A among the city's homeless population. Days after County officials declared a Hepatitis A outbreak and social service agencies and homeless advocates called for public health measures, Mike submitted a motion asking City officials to identify funding for emergency portable restrooms with attendants, and to explore creation of a mobile toilet program similar to one operating in San Francisco.

"This is a public health crisis, and we need to act with urgency," Mike said. "It is inhumane and unsafe to deny people access to restrooms. It endangers people living on the street, and it endangers neighbors who find human feces in their alleys and on their sidewalks."

Mike's motion also asked City officials to identify funding to open existing and emergency portable toilets 24-7, staffed by attendants. Mike said that staffing public restrooms with attendants to keep them clean and free of crime is a "best practice" that should be replicated here. Mike also urged Department of Recreation and Parks officials to move swiftly to open restrooms at Venice Beach around the clock. Mike secured funds for the 24-7 restrooms during budget deliberations earlier this year, but the department has yet to start the

expanded access.

[You can read more here.](#)

---

### **Permanent Supportive Housing Ordinance Draft Released Oct2017Graphics26.jpg**

As part of a multi-faceted approach to address the region's growing homelessness crisis, the City is proposing to make it easier and simpler to provide one of the most necessary solutions: permanent supportive housing. The City is looking to streamline approvals for housing for people who are homeless, and Mike invites your input on the City's draft ordinance.

You can find information about the draft ordinance, with frequently asked questions, [here](#). You can submit comments to be considered for the staff recommendation report to the City Planning Commission contacting Cally Hardy at [cally.hardy@lacity.org](mailto:cally.hardy@lacity.org) (213) 978-1643 by 5:00pm on October 30. Comments received after October 30, 2017 should be addressed to the City Planning Commission for its consideration.

---

### **West LA/Sawtelle Neighborhood Council Votes to Support Affordable and Supportive Housing Project in West LA**

 [WLA\\_Safran\\_new.jpg](#)

Eager to be part of the solution to homelessness, the [West LA/Sawtelle Neighborhood Council](#) voted 10-1 last week to support affordable and

permanent supportive housing and housing for the formerly homeless at the old WLA Animal Shelter at 11950 Missouri Ave (southeast corner of Bundy Drive and Missouri Avenue). The project will include nearly 80 units of affordable housing with up to 50% permanent supportive housing and will include a mix of one bedroom, two bedroom and three bedroom units. Other notable features include a community room and community garden. The project is being proposed by [Thomas Safran and Associates](#) as part of an effort Mike supports to use vacant and under-utilized city property for homeless and affordable housing.

Mike thanks the neighborhood council for its support, and also thanks TSA for listening to West LA residents as it shaped and refined the proposal. Now that the WLASNC has voiced support for the project, Safran and Associates will continue working through the city's approval process. Stay tuned in future months for a timeline of when the West LA project will be considered by the City Council.

---

### **Haircuts, Healthcare for Homeless at Manchester Square**

 Oct2017Graphics27.jpg

The City and [Los Angeles World Airports](#) held the fourth Homeless Connect event on September 19 in Manchester Square in Westchester. These events bring homeless service providers, public social service agencies and housing connections directly to Manchester Square on a monthly basis.

---



## **LGBT Homeless Youth Clothing Drive**

 Oct2017Graphics28.jpg

During the month of September, city employees and visitors donated professional-quality clothing, shoes and accessories for homeless LGBTQ youth to wear to job interviews and at work. Young homeless LGBTQ job seekers face countless challenges but, with the support of organizations like the Los Angeles LGBT Center, they know they're not alone. More than 1,000 items of clothing have been donated so far, with last-minute items still pouring in. Thanks to everyone who helped make this difference!

---

 Transportation\_REVISE.jpg

## **Metro Fast-Tracking Key Westside Project**

 Oct2017Graphics32.jpg

Mike is excited to announce the LA Metro is fast-tracking one of the most significant transit projects to benefit the Westside -- mass transit from LAX, through the Sepulveda Pass, and into the San Fernando Valley. The project has the potential to be the most significant game-changer for Westside traffic, and it was the key project Mike, as a Metro board member, fought to include in Measure M, which voters approved last fall.

At the September board meeting, the directors voted to solicit formal proposals for a public-private partnership that we are confident will yield significant cost-savings and accelerate the project. [You can read more here.](#)

---

### **Bike Share Rolls into Venice**

Oct2017Graphics31.jpg

This month, we were excited to welcome [Metro's Bike Share](#) to the Westside with a community celebration and ride on Ocean Front Walk. Residents and tourists in Venice are already using this convenient and increasingly popular service that expands our network of mobility options. The launch brought 15 stations and 165 rentable bikes to the area, complementing and competing with [Santa Monica's Breeze Bike Share](#) program, which also has stations and bikes in Venice. Bike share gives people yet another alternative to their cars, which in turn will help relieve traffic in our neighborhoods. On the Westside, it will give Metro commuters an on-demand, clean-air option for traveling to and from Expo Line stops, several bus lines, and countless places to eat, shop and play.

[Here's a map](#) of all the stations countywide. Bring your helmet and try it out!

---

## **Metro Thinking ahead with “MicroTransit” Rideshare Pilot**

**Oct2017Graphics33.jpg**

From his role as a member of the Board of Directors of LA Metro, Mike has been fighting to increase transit options of all sorts in Los Angeles County -- and he is particularly excited that Metro is exploring providing “MicroTransit” to area commuters.

Metro has announced the MicroTransit, a groundbreaking pilot project to create a new complementary, rideshare transit service which will dynamically route vehicles to pick-up and drop-off customers at virtual stops within Los Angeles County. This pilot will explore whether and how a more demand responsive local service may be able to better meet travel demand than a traditional fixed bus route. The program will likely utilize smaller vehicles that carry fewer passengers and may be a good way to offer services in lower density areas. Metro is currently seeking a private-sector partner for this effort. Stay tuned for more in the coming months!

[You can read more here.](#)

---

## **Speed Limit Changes Coming to the Westside**

 Speed\_Limits\_new.jpg

One of the biggest requests we get from constituents is better enforcement of speed limits. Setting speed limits is largely regulated by an illogical state law – and that law means some Westside speed limits are changing – and not necessarily for the best. According to state law, our local police officers are not

allowed to enforce speed limits on a road unless there has been a recent and valid speed survey conducted on the street. Once a speed survey is completed, however, the speed limits is set at whatever speed 85% of drivers are driving - regardless of if that speed makes sense for the neighborhood or is safe for the people who live on the street.

In order to enforce speed limits, the City has been conducting a series of speed surveys, and while three District 11 streets will see a reduction in the speed limit, another three streets will see an unfortunate increase in the speed limit. LADOT has notified us that Alla Road (from Washington to Maxella) will go from 30mph to 25mph, while Sawtelle Boulevard (from Olympic to Pico) and Via Dolce (from Washington to Marquesas) will both have their speed limits go from 35mph to 30mph. Unfortunately, the state-mandated formula also means that the speed limits on La Tijera Boulevard (from La Cienega to 74th), Olympic Boulevard (from Century Park East to Centinela) and Sawtelle Boulevard (from Pico to Palms) are all having their speed limits increased from 35mph to 40mph.

Recent attempts to change state law and allow cities to set their own reasonable speed limits have not been successful – but Mike continues to advocate with our Sacramento representatives that safety needs to be a factor in setting and enforcing speed limits, and cities need more discretion.

---

 LAX\_Update\_REVISE.jpg

### **LAX Terminal Improvements at Southwest Making Major Progress**

Oct2017Graphics34.jpg

If you've flown out of LAX recently, you know that there are big changes going on inside the airport. One of the biggest is Southwest Airlines' renovation of the nearly 30-year-old Terminal 1 to improve the interior, the outdoor aircraft parking ramp area, and the traffic flow around the airport's central terminal area.

Terminal 1 opened in 1984 and is in need of modernization to accommodate the needs of a technology-rich, post-9/11 world. Because building systems are

nearing the end of their useful life in the space, this renovation will replace them with more efficient, environmentally-friendly equipment. The \$508 million upgrades include: a new state-of-the-art, consolidated security screening checkpoint; a fully automated checked baggage inspection and sorting system; an integrated passenger waiting room/concessions program; refurbished arrival/baggage claim area; replacement of the passenger boarding bridges; renovations to airline support office space; relocation of the main entrances towards the west end of the building to ease traffic congestion; new ramp pavement and hydrant fuel system improvements. Completion is expected this coming spring.

---

### **LAX Launches HireLAX Workforce Development Program**

**Oct2017Graphics35.jpg**

Los Angeles' historic \$14 billion investment in LAX will do more to bring the airport into the 21st Century with world-class facilities; it will provide thousands of construction and permanent jobs for local women and men. Last month, Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) launched its [HireLAX](#) program and welcomed its first group of pre-apprentices. HireLAX--a partnership between LAWA, the [Los Angeles Community College District](#) and the [LA/OC Building Trades](#)--is an eight-week program to prepare local residents for careers on the airport's [Landside Access Modernization Program](#) and other major projects during the construction boom spurred by Metro M and other funds. Students will also receive comprehensive case management to help them develop soft skills and overcome barriers to employment such as lack of high school diploma or GED, transportation, childcare, homelessness, involvement in the criminal justice system, or lack of access to construction tools and personal protective equipment. Upon completion, program graduates are competitively positioned for placement consideration on a LAWA construction project through its contractors and local craft unions. Veterans and women are strongly encouraged to participate in the program. We wish them luck!

---

 Planning\_REVISE.jpg

## **Beach Curfew to Be Revisited at Public Hearing October 5**

**Oct2017Graphics36.jpg**

An important hearing is coming up this week regarding Los Angeles' beach curfew.

The curfew -- which closes five city beach parks—including Dockweiler, Venice, and Will Rogers in Council District 11 – from midnight until 5:00 am.has been on the city books for decades, and the Venice curfew got renewed enforcement about ten years ago at the direction of then-Councilman Bill Rosendahl. The move was controversial, and subject to years of litigation.

As a result of the litigation, the City Department of Recreation and Parks is applying for a Coastal Development Permit (CDP) from the [California Coastal Commission](#) to maintain the operating hours of the City's beach parks. The City Bureau of Engineering will hold a public hearing on October 6, 2017, to consider whether to request approval of the on-going implementation of the operating hours. The hearing will be at 6:00 pm in the Westchester Senior Center Community Room, located at 8740 Lincoln Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90045. You are invited and encouraged to attend this hearing so your input about continuing, ending, or modifying the beach curfew can be heard.

---

## **Transit-Oriented Communities Guidelines Released**

**Oct2017Graphics37.jpg**

Last year, City voters overwhelmingly approved Measure JJJ, which calls for more affordable housing in discretionary projects in the City. As part of the voter approval, the City needs to approve final guidelines for developing affordable housing as part of "transit-oriented communities." The Planning Department has released the final guidelines. This planning document is a valuable resource for neighborhood councils, affordable housing developers, advocates and planners. Please share these TOC Guidelines and Planning's FAQ with anyone you know

who might be interested in the future of affordable housing development in LA.

---

### **Streamlining City's Land Use Planning Process**

Oct2017Graphics38.jpg

If you think the City's planning process is byzantine and baffling, you are not alone. That's why the Planning Department has launched [re:codeLA](#).

[re:code LA](#) is a comprehensive revision of the City of Los Angeles' Zoning Code, and is one of the City's largest planning initiatives to date. First adopted in 1946, the Zoning Code's overall structure has remained the same, while the needs of the City have changed drastically. re:code LA will create a Zoning Code to realize the needs of a 21st Century Los Angeles for all stakeholders. A key player in re:codeLA is its co-chair, Sharon Commins, member of the Westside Regional Alliance of Councils and former president of the Mar Vista Community Council, whom Mike was proud to appoint.

The re:code LA team has unveiled [a proposal](#) that will cut the number of project review processes in half. The department says the new set of processes & procedures will maintain long-standing opportunities for public participation, and make it easier for both applicants and the public to clearly understand how the Department considers use and development proposals and how to navigate the decision-making process.

The comment period on the Processes and Procedures section of re:Code LA has been extended to November 7. [Click here to let them know what you think.](#)

---

### **Short-Term Rental Debate Heading to Planning Committee**


**STR\_update.jpg**

The City proposal to regulate short-term rentals is finally getting its hearing before the council's Planning and Land Use Committee in October.

Last year, Mike and Council President Herb Wesson proposed a broad framework for regulating short-term rentals. Essentially, they proposed that the City permit and regulate "good short-term rentals," people using their own primary residences for home-sharing, while banning and cracking down on "bad

short-term rentals,” speculators who buy up properties, evict tenants, and eliminate long-term rental housing while turning residential neighborhoods into rogue hotel zones. The Planning Department and the Citywide Planning Commission have revised the proposal in response to public comment, and [the latest version](#) is now heading to the council.

---

 Legislation\_REVISE.jpg

***Find Out More About the City Council's Work to Put Neighborhoods First***

**Council Moves Forward With Rules for New Marijuana Industry in LA**

 Marijuana\_new.jpg

When voters in California overwhelmingly approved Proposition 64 last November, we decided to legalize cannabis for recreational use by adults. How and where cannabis can be sold now that it is legal under state law to do so, however, is being decided by each city in the state.

A key City Council committee met on September 25 to debate proposed regulations for the cannabis industry in Los Angeles. The draft regulations set out how marijuana businesses can apply for licenses and operate, including what hours they can be open, what records they must keep, and what security systems they have to install. A separate set of zoning rules restricts where they can open their doors.



You can read the draft ordinance [here](#), and you can read more about the ongoing conversation about the new rules in the [Los Angeles Times coverage of the September 25 committee meeting](#).

---

## **Online Voting Considered for Neighborhood Councils**

### **Online\_Voting.jpg**

Neighborhood Councils are the most local form of city government, and their elected members speak for their neighbors and advise the City on land use projects, quality of life issues and countless other topics. The City Council is scheduled to vote on a proposal regarding two changes to Neighborhood Council elections: switching elections to even-numbered years and moving to online voting. Several 11th District councils have already weighed in with suggestions and concerns about the proposal, while the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners voted to write [a letter that supported the continued development of online voting](#) under conditions that would improve performance, security and ease of use. You can [learn more about the recommendations here](#) and please consider attending the October 3 City Council meeting to weigh in.

---

## **Standing Up for Transgender Servicemembers**


 Oct2017Graphics41.jpg

This month, Mike joined [Equality California](#), Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia, Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell and transgender veterans and advocates to announce the filing of a lawsuit in United States District Court for the Central District of California seeking to block a directive by President Donald Trump

barring military service and essential healthcare to transgender Americans. This ban on the patriotic men and women who want nothing more than to serve this country is an affront to American values and does nothing to improve the safety or cohesion of our troops.

Los Angeles is fighting back against policies that try at every turn to divide us--by ethnicity, by gender, by religion, by documentation status. What makes America great is our diversity, our refusal to live in fear, our unyielding instance that we continue becoming the truly equal and just nation that we were created to be.

---

 Community\_Calendar\_REVISE.jpg

*Find out about just some of the events happening in your neighborhood in the next month!*

- **Mar Vista Chamber of Commerce Happy Hour**
  - October 11, 2017; 5:30pm - 730pm
  - Rustic Kitchen (3523 S. Centinela Ave.)
- **Women's Club of Playa del Rey Fall Festival**
  - October 14, 9:00am
  - Parking Lot of Playa del Rey Women's Club
  - 8039 W. Manchester Avenue
- **Flight Path Museum Annual Celebration and Fundraiser**
  - October 5, 5:30pm
  - The Proud Bird Events Center Grand Ballroom
  - 11022 Aviation Blvd, Los Angeles
  - Tickets and sponsorships available [here](#).
- **Annual Ladera Day Faire**
  - October 7, 12:00pm
  - Parent Elementary School, 5354 W. 64th Street, Los Angeles
  - Event information [here](#).
- **"Get Up and Dance" Mayor's Youth Council West Area Cohort Event**

- October 21, 11:00am
- Westchester Park, 7000 W. Manchester Avenue, Los Angeles
- Event information [here](#).
- **VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System's 3rd Annual "Homeless-to-Housed Veterans Stand-Down" event**
  - October 21, 6:00am-5:00pm
  - Hosted at the Veterans Welcome Center on Friday, October 27, 2017 from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **West LA Community Coalition "Love Your Block" Planning Meeting**
  - October 4; 6pm
  - 1645 Corinth Ave. Los Angeles, CA 90025
  - Find out more and RSVP [here](#).
- **Del Rey Day**
  - October 15; 11am
  - Glen Alla Park (4601 Alla Rd., Marina Del Rey)
- **Westchester Mural Informational Meeting**
  - October 4,; 6pm
  - Starbucks Coffee (8817 S Sepulveda Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90045)
- **WLA Halloween Haunted House & Carnival**
  - 10/21, 10/22, 10/28, 10/29 from 6:00-9:00 pm
  - WLA Civic Center, 1645 Corinth Ave Rm 209, West LA CA 90025
  - Free Admission. No costumes please. More info: [27995@lapd.online](mailto:27995@lapd.online) or 320-444-0737 or follow @wlaHaunt.

*Do you have an event you would like listed? Email [updates@11thdistrict.com](mailto:updates@11thdistrict.com) to submit events.*

---

 [Before\\_You\\_Go\\_REVISE.jpg](#)

## **Remembering Pastor Steve Weller**

[Before\\_you\\_go\\_Weller.jpg](#)

Pastor Steve Weller -- a pillar of the Westside's faith, recovery and homeless communities -- passed away on September 1 after a battle with cancer. Along

with his wife, Pastor Regina Weller, both of whom serve Venice Foursquare Church, Steve devoted his life to conducting homeless outreach in Venice and helping to connect people forced to live on the street with services, housing and often their families. The Wellers – LAPD Chaplains and pastors at Venice Foursquare Church--helped hundreds of homeless people get into rehab, get into housing or get reunited with their families. We will remember his compassion, his dedication, his candor and the countless lives he saved. Mike was proud to support the Wellers' direct, personal outreach with a \$62,000 grant last year. Investment in their work--which Regina and their many partners will carry on--is an investment in solutions to homelessness.

---

***Thank you for reading the September issue of Mike Bonin's  
Neighborhoods First Newsletter.***

***For more about Mike and Council District 11, please  
visit [www.11thdistrict.com](http://www.11thdistrict.com).***

Council District 11 · 1645 Corinth Ave, 201, Los Angeles, CA 90025, United States  
This email was sent to [lisa@mediadistrict.org](mailto:lisa@mediadistrict.org). To stop receiving emails, [click here](#).

Created with [NationBuilder](#), the essential toolkit for leaders.